



One Hundred First Legislature - Second Session - 2010
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LR 538

Chairperson: Bill Avery
Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Date of Hearing: April 8, 2010

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Over the past five years, the federal government increased spending by 42 percent to the highest level of spending as a share of the economy since World War II.

The federal government has borrowed tremendous amounts of money to finance the skyrocketing spending. As a result, the federal budget deficit has ballooned over the past five years from \$7.3 trillion to approximately \$12 trillion- a five year increase equal to the nation's entire accumulation of debt from the presidencies of George Washington to Bill Clinton. Further, the federal budget deficit has been projected to jump to \$17.5 trillion by 2019.

Practically every state has a balanced budget requirement, which necessitates that annual appropriations be balanced with revenues.

LR 538 reaffirms the legislature's commitment to LR 106, passed by the Unicameral in 1976. In part, LR 106 requests Congress to institute procedures to add a new article to the U.S. Constitution requiring a balanced budget. Alternatively, LR 106 requests Congress to call a constitutional convention for the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution requiring a balanced budget. LR 106 also proposes that the Legislatures of each of the states apply to Congress requesting that Congress either add a new balanced budget article to the Constitution or require Congress to call a constitutional convention for the propose of proposing a balanced budget amendment.

Principal Introducer:



Senator Pete Pirsch